The book is nicely organized into sections covering the epidemiology and genetics of insulin resistance, the molecular basis for diabetic vascular complications (including the roles of nitric oxide and insulin receptors), new insights into the renal and atherosclerotic complications, and new approaches toward prevention of these complications. The first four chapters serve as a nice introduction, in that they focus on the results of several large clinical trials, including the IRAS (Insulin Resistance and Systemic Atherosclerosis) trial, which, when originally published in 1996, directed attention to the atherogenic consequences of insulin in Syndrome X. Specific topics are discussed in later chapters, including excellent reviews of glucose and insulin's cellular signaling transduction pathways as a cause of accelerated atherosclerosis. Recent clinical data have supported the routine use of lipid-lowering agents in patients with diabetes, and several chapters in this book review the unique metabolic and atherogenic effects of dyslipidemia in diabetes. This topic is again addressed in the later chapters on prevention of atherosclerotic complications, and endocrinologists and diabetologists will certainly find the information in these later chapters to be of some help in their approach to diabetic patients with cardiovascular disease.

The book will serve as a helpful reference source for basic scientists and clinicians with a scientific interest in diabetes. Although most clinical vascular surgeons will not find the text particularly useful in their everyday practice, they may be interested to learn of some of the subtle metabolic alterations of diabetes that ultimately lead to the not-so-subtle cardiovascular complications.

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Interventional radiology essentials

J. M. LaBerge (editor), R. L. Gordon, R. K. Kerlan, M. W. Wilson; Philadelphia; 2000; Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 423 pages; $125.

In the last decade, there has been steady growth in the number and types of endovascular procedures performed by vascular surgeons. Many of these minimally invasive and image-guided techniques are the same or adaptations of those traditionally used by interventional radiologists. Indeed, many vascular surgeons are now training with and working alongside interventional radiologists. Accordingly, a concise text of pertinent interventional techniques would be of value to many vascular surgeons. *Interventional Radiology Essentials* provides a balanced review of IR principles and techniques, but is not specifically directed to the evolving endovascular procedures.

The primary target readers of this book are radiologists in training, specifically vascular/interventional radiology (VIR) fellows preparing for the American Board of Radiology VIR certificate of added qualification (CAQ) exam. The book is divided into three sections: vascular diagnosis, vascular interventions, and nonvascular interventions. Not coincidentally, these are the same three components of the oral CAQ exam.

Overall, the book is well organized and easily readable. Many bulleted outlines are included in the margins and in the tables within the text. Images are abundant and high quality. A particularly useful feature is the placement of all tables and images on the same or opposite page from the text description, eliminating much page flipping. Unknown type preview cases at the beginning of each chapter (with answers at the end of the chapter) provide an interactive method of initial approach to the subject matter.

Vascular diagnosis chapters are primarily organized by anatomic region. Delineation of the normal and variant anatomy is followed by the pathophysiology, clinical presentation, and angiographic findings of the specific entities peculiar to each region. Also included are chapters on magnetic resonance angiography (MRA) and computed tomographic angiography (CTA). These provide the basic imaging principles, strengths, and limitations, and the most useful clinical applications of each modality. The chapter on noninvasive peripheral vascular examination, like the clinical presentation sections, should be very helpful to VIR trainees, but may be basic for vascular surgeons.

Perhaps most pertinent to vascular surgeons is the vascular interventions section, which includes the principles and techniques of angioplasty, stents and stent-grafts, fibrinolysis, embolization, and other forms of transcatheter therapy. These are particularly useful to individuals wading into the waters of endovascular therapy. Included are relatively objective comparisons of results to alternative therapies. Unfortunately, many of the techniques are significantly influenced by the currently available commercial products (eg, stent-grafts), making any textbook on the subject rapidly outdated. For the individual interested primarily in vascular intervention, the *Peripheral Vascular Interventions* syllabus published by the Society of Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology is more comprehensive.

The nonvascular interventions section is well done, particularly the percutaneous biliary interventions chapter. However, other than the dialysis access interventions, this section may be of limited value to vascular surgeons.

As it is intended, *Interventional Radiology Essentials* is an excellent, concise review of interventional radiology. For the radiologists in training, this is a review book that is much needed and much overdue. For the vascular surgeon, this book can provide a well-organized starting point for learning interventional radiology principles and techniques.

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